

HISTORY OF FIELD OFFICES

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The origins of the [REDACTED] Field Office System of the Office of Security were found in the modest dimensions of an Office of Strategic Service (OSS) operation conducted in [REDACTED] during World War II. OSS maintained at the [REDACTED] Street, [REDACTED], a small and hyper-clandestine investigative unit. The director of the unit was [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was a close personal associate and political supporter of General William Donovan, Director of OSS.

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This unit was small but staffed with highly experienced and soundly qualified investigators. Among its personnel was a former Assistant U. S. District Attorney for the New York District, a retired Naval Commander with extensive Naval Intelligence experience, and a number of former FBI agents. Reference to this unit was made by

a senior Office of Security official in 1951 while addressing a training class as follows:

"In OSS days there was a research branch consisting of eleven people under the direction of [REDACTED] Seven persons were in the field and four were at Headquarters. Their mission was to operationally support overseas activities of OSS. It was a unit little known and little understood for it was a security violation to even mention its existence."

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It is known that this unit operated without benefit of any credentials but was equipped to establish its bona fides if such were seriously questioned. Its reports never mentioned the name of the subject in the title or the body. The investigator or agent's name who conducted the investigation or submitted a report was never mentioned. He was described by a code symbol, e.g., K-1, H-4. The unit conducted background investigations of persons of interest to OSS. This clandestine approach and covert technique had great influence in the operating approach

of the Office of Security when it was faced with the unique requirements of supporting a major intelligence gathering operation. It is also interesting to note that this unit had on its staff a professional female investigator.

After the cessation of hostilities in 1945 most of the war-time staff of this unit returned to their peacetime pursuits. A very small group remained. However, in keeping with the developing executive policy to establish a permanent and formal U. S. intelligence agency, OSS was in a phasing out stage and a new unit, the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) was instituted on an interim basis. The [REDACTED] unit continued to operate under a contract with SSU with two or three of its veterans available. It began to conduct background investigations on persons being recruited into the new U.S. intelligence organization. As this work increased [REDACTED] was authorized to recruit experienced investigators. This he did by seeking graduates of various governmental and law enforcement services who had

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returned to civilian pursuits. His recruiting activities were particularly strong in the Spring and Summer of 1946. The office remained at the [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

Operating techniques and procedures were the same. By November 1946 [REDACTED] had recruited a staff of approximately eleven investigators. All were trained and extremely well qualified. During the last week in October 1946 [REDACTED] and CIG officials became involved 25X1A9a

in a disagreement concerned with [REDACTED] insistence upon broad independence of action generally and 25X1A9a

particularly in reference to recruiting. As a result of an impasse it was mutually agreed that [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

association with CIG would terminate. On 3 November 1946 [REDACTED] stepped out of the picture and passed control 25X1A9a

of the unit to CIG officials. [REDACTED] was designated as the CIG representative to assume control of this unit and to develop it. He prevailed upon the agent personnel of the [REDACTED] regime to remain 25X1A9a

with the organization and to pursue careers with the new U.S. intelligence unit. Without exception the entire staff continued.

Temporary office space for the unit was obtained with an OSO group on lower [REDACTED] and on 20 December 1946 permanent office space was procured at [REDACTED] Street.

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As of 19 September 1946 arrangements had been concluded with the FBI whereby they would continue security investigations of prospective CIG staff or open employees. In December 1946 the FBI was advised that CIG operated a special investigative group whose function it was to conduct investigations of persons to be employed by CIG in sensitive positions requiring that their identity with the CIG group not be known. The Bureau was advised that this special group operated under cover of the [REDACTED] Office of the Chief Coordinator. The names of the agents were provided to the FBI. This group also utilized secondary

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[REDACTED]

25X1A6a On 1 May 1947 a second office in the chain was instituted at [REDACTED]

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In 1948 the FBI discontinued the investigations of Agency overt or staff personnel. At this point the Agency created the Employee Investigations Branch (EIB) with offices strategically located throughout the

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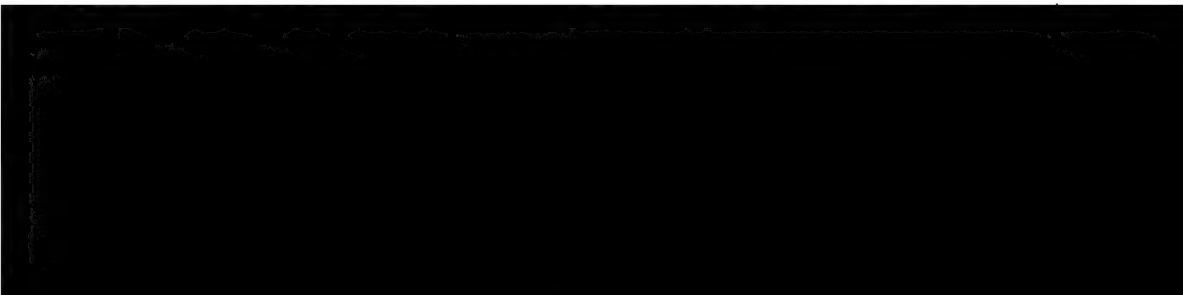
This unit utilized CIA credentials and was concerned only with the investigations of staff candidates. The operation was suspended in December 1948 when the FBI resumed investigations for the Agency. In December 1950 the FBI for the last time withdrew its services from the CIA investigations program. Hurried, and to a degree, frantic efforts were instituted to compensate for the disruption in Agency staffing caused by the FBI withdrawal and the two

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Offices were used as the

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_____ created by and managed by the Office fo Special Operations, a clandestine intelligence gathering unit of the Agency. In 1950, however, the management of the _____ was transferred

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to the Office Security and has remained under its aegis since that time. The _____ brought to the investigative profession a uniqueness not previously found in the profession. Nationally and internationally, Office of Security investigators were the first domestic investigators whose primary function it was to support a major government intelligence gathering organization. CIA was the first major venture of the United States Government in this direction. Accordingly, there was no guidebook or body of experience to rely upon. The use

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_____ investi-
gation was absolutely essential. Implementation of the

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an art and a science by experience, imagination, and talent. This investigative unit was also unique in that it was required to use its investigative potential and ability to provide what has become to be known as operational support. It is difficult to define operational support. It amounts to providing any and all kinds of assistance within the [redacted] office capability to all components of the Agency.

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